

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert at page 5, below the third paragraph the following:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Please insert at page 5, below the fifth paragraph the following:

--Figures 5 A and B show distribution in systems of the invention.--

Please replace the first full paragraph of page 9 bridging page 10 as indicated below:

--One embodiment of the distribution system shown in Figure 3 was installed in a fixed bed with a diameter of 400 mm. The density of the conduits was 440 conduits/m². The conduit diameter was 15 mm, each perforated with four 4 mm diameter holes spaced 50 mm apart. The distance h_t of the conduits below the liquid chamber was 30 mm. The distance between the bottom of the conduits and the inlet to the bed was 10 mm. The liquid chamber was 250 mm deep and supplied at a single point. The performance of this distribution system was tested using a gamma tomography system, which measured the distribution of the liquid and gas present inside the bed at a distance of 500 mm from the distribution system. This performance was compared, under the same gas and liquid flow conditions, with the performance obtained with a conventional distribution system constituted by 4 conduits with a diameter of 50 mm for the passage of gas and 44 holes with a diameter of 10 mm for the passage of liquid. In this second plate, the liquid and gas were injected as a co-current upstream of the plate at the reactor head. ~~Figure~~ Figures 5 A and B shows the distribution of the gas in the bed for the two systems under consideration, respectively. The distribution system described in the present application can significantly improve the distribution of the gas flow inside the granular bed.--